

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment amends Claims 11 and 13 and adds new Claim 22. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Support for Claim 22 is found in the specification at least at page 7, line 28. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1, 3-13 and 21-22 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and early examination and allowance of the application in light of the remarks that follow.

Attached is a Second Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132, which includes a FIG. B demonstrating a significant reduction in density of cracks achieved by the present invention over a critical range of Al mole fraction, x , that rebuts any *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the prior art cited in parent U.S. Application No. 10/188,744.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Second Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. 1.132